

# Athol

**\* Residents \* Town Boards \* Committees \* Staff \***

***PLEASE ATTEND!!!***

***An important Public Forum to provide input  
on the development of a  
Fixed Wireless Broadband Facilities  
Zoning Bylaw***

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012 6:00 PM  
Memorial Hall, Athol Town Hall  
584 Main Street, Athol, MA**

The Town of Athol is considering the development of a Fixed Wireless Broadband Facilities Zoning Bylaw for adoption at an upcoming Town Meeting. Before the Town begins to create such a Zoning Bylaw, our Town Boards including, the Planning Board, Zoning Bylaw Committee and the Zoning Board of Appeals, along with the Town Administrator, are seeking the opinions and recommendations of Athol residents, Board and Committee members and Town Staff about such a Bylaw. This Public Forum will also provide introductory information about Fixed Wireless Broadband Technology and an update on the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) to bring fiber optic connectivity to the Town.

The benefits of having reliable broadband internet services Town-wide will foster economic development opportunities, including small business growth, as well as help make the Town of Athol more desirable and improve the quality of life. It is important for the Town to have the zoning and regulatory tools in place to provide a framework for fixed wireless broadband internet facilities, which is a type of internet service (versus cable or DSL for example) that can be made available to rural communities.

Additional information will be provided at the Public Forum. Please join us, as your voices are critical to create a Bylaw that will best serve the Town of Athol! The Town of Athol has received a Broadband Planning grant award from Western MA Broadband Connect, Inc. and MBI for development of the Bylaw with assistance being provided by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC).

Eric R. Smith, AICP, Principal Planner, of MRPC and George "Chip" Brodeur, Consultant with BNC Network Consulting Services, will be on hand to present information about the Fixed Wireless Technology and the Bylaw development process.